

(b) exposing the nucleic acid or cDNA created from the nucleic acid to at least one primer pair, comprising a 5' and a 3' primer, specific for at least one human virus under conditions suitable for nucleic acid amplification and wherein the 5' and 3' primers are of unequal concentration, wherein an amplification product is formed if the sample contains any of the at least one virus, and

(c) determining whether the amplification product is present by exposing the step (b) products to protein-linked oligonucleotide probes under conditions suitable for hybridization between complementary nucleic acid sequences and examining the probes for the presence of a hybridization product, wherein the oligonucleotide probe is of a sequence identical to a viral sequence.

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35. (New Claim) The method of claim 34 wherein the ratio of 5' to 3' primer is selected from the group consisting of approximately 50:25, 25:50, 12.5:50 and 12.5:25.

36. (New Claim) The method of claim 34 wherein the nucleic acid or cDNA created from the nucleic acid is exposed to primers pairs specific for sequences selected from the group consisting of parainfluenza virus-1, 2 and